(b) whether the desired reprot has been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, by when this centre will start working; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The growth centre proposed to be set up in the district of Pauri Garhwal has not been approved so far as the State Government is yet to finalise its exact location and submit the project report

Dress code for young girls in Trade Fairs

1099. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that young girls were being used by stall owners in various fairs in vulgar and indecent manner in Pragati Maidan for attracting buyers;

(b) if so, whether any dress code is being considered in this regard;

(c) if not, whether the law relating to indecent representation of women not being flouted by doing so; and

(d) whether Government put an end to it?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The organizers and their exhibitors who hold their events in Pragati Maidan employ guides, including girls for marketing their products. In case of ITPO's own fairs and exhibitions, the girl guides employed by ITPO are required to wear sarees. ITPO has not defined any dress code to be followed by exhibitors in Pragati Maidan. The Government is not aware of any complaint regarding violation of provisions relating to obscenity lodged with the competent Authority under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) or the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986.

News-item captioned "Now, activists going hell for leather-wearing"

1100. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governemnt's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the Hindustan Times dated 16th February, 2000 captioned "Now, activists going hell for leather-wearing";

(b) whether PETA (People of the Ethical Treatment of Animals), the US based group has launched its campaign with an international denunciation of the Indian Leather trade by saying that in a land where cows are "Sacred" thousand are subjected to agonising abuse to serve the leather industry, whcih exports to US, Britain among other countries, and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Governemnt of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Government is aware of the news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 16th February 2000. PETA (People of the Ethical Treatment of Animals) which is a US based animal rights organisation, has launched campaigns in different countries against wearing of articles made of fur and leather. India being one of the major producers of leather, does find a mention in their campaign.

(c) The Council for Leather Exports (CLE) which is the nodal agency for exports has prepared a action plan to make users of leather products aware of the correct facts. CLE, among other things, also intend to use international television networks for exhibiting films on the subject.

Selling of Government stakes in MRL and BRPL

1101. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are likely to sell its stakes in Madras Refineries Ltd., (MRL) and BRPL to Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. before March, 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) the matter is under consideration of the Government.